



AAWRE Holds 4th Induction Ceremony at 2008 EWRI Congress



Nearly 300 environmental and water resources engineering professionals joined together on May 13, 2008 to honor nearly 50 Diplomate, Water Resources Engineers (D.WRE) of the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers (AAWRE). The special ceremony and reception was held as part of the EWRI 2008 World Water and Environmental Resources Congress in Honolulu, Hawaii. The ceremony was the Academy's 4th and the event was held to publicly recognize all new diplomates that achieved the D.WRE credential from fall 2007 thru spring 2008.

AAWRE President, Michael A. Ports, P.E., P.H., D.WRE, began the ceremony by welcoming all Congress attendees and recognizing AAWRE and ASCE staff, and thanked the founding trustees of AAWRE for their dedicated service and leadership to start the Academy. Mr. Ports introduced American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) President, David G. Mongan, P.E., F.ASCE, for additional welcome remarks.

David Mongan welcomed all attendees at the Congress and congratulated the new Diplomate, Water Resources Engineers. Mr. Mongan emphasized the importance of post-licensure specialty certification for civil engineers and congratulated the latest class of AAWRE diplomates. Mr. Mongan stated, "The Academy's standards for educational, professional experience, and ethics, are all in line with ASCE's 'Raising the Bar' initiative. I say with great pride, that all of the AAWRE Diplomates- that you are providing the way and leading by example to make a difference in 'raising the bar' for all generations of new water engineers to follow."

The recognition portion of the ceremony began with AAWRE President, Ports recognizing three latest honorary diplomates of the Academy, Professor Asit K. Biswas, Ph.D., Hon.D.WRE, from Third World Centre for Water Management in Atizapan, Mexico, Professor Rafael L. Bras, Sc.D., P.E., Hon.D.WRE, from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA, and Mr. Paul Boulos, Ph.D., Hon.D.WRE, from MWH Soft in Broomfield, CO. Professor Bras was in attendance to receive a special honorary medallion, certificate, and pin. Professor Biswas and Mr. Boulos were not in attendance. Special diplomate lapel pins and certificates of special knowledge were awarded to the rest of the new 40+ diplomates to commemorate their achievement.

The Academy presented a special recognition award to EWRI Past-President, Major General Steven R. Abt, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE, of Colorado State University for his tours of duty in Iraq. Major General Abt was in attendance to receive a special plaque commemorating the award, in which the inscription read "Presented to Major General Steven R. Abt, On May 13, 2008, In Recognition of Dedicated Service to his Profession and Country".

The Academy also recognized and congratulated EWRI members and diplomates, Dr. Herman Bouwer, Ph.D., P.E., Hon.D.WRE, and Philip Burgi, P.E., D.WRE, the recipients of EWRI's Lifetime Achievement Award, and Professor Stephen Burges, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE, for receiving the Ven Te Chow Award.

Ports congratulated the new diplomates for 2007-2008 and made the statement regarding EWRI's support of the Academy's goals, "AAWRE is proud and grateful to team with EWRI again, for allowing AAWRE to hold our 4th Diplomate Induction ceremony at this year's Congress here in Hawaii. AAWRE would like to thank EWRI for supporting AAWRE's mission in recognizing advanced, post-licensure certification for water resources engineers. We (AAWRE) cannot be successful without the help of EWRI and its members."

AAWRE Past-President Jeffrey B. Bradley, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE, and President-Elect, Daniel W. Boyd, P.E., D.WRE, participated in the ceremony by awarding the certificates and diplomate pins to all honored guests and diplomates.

The evening concluded with a reception for all in attendance, as families, friends, and colleagues of the honored congratulated the new diplomates. AAWRE will hold a special 5th anniversary induction ceremony at the 2009 EWRI Congress in Kansas City, Missouri, in May 2009.

AAWRE's goal is dedicated to improving the practice, elevating the standards, and advancing the profession of water resources engineering. Since the start of the AAWRE Diplomate program in October 2004, over 400 professional engineers have achieved the Diplomate, Water Resources Engineer (D.WRE) credential. For more information on AAWRE, please visit www.aawre.org.

###